There is no obstinacy like that of a sheep asked to move from its last corner of pasture, of a guest asked to go when one drink is still in the bottle; of a woman asked to remove one remaining garment, or a politician to forgo one remaining principle. If Liberals were not free-traders, what were they ?

With this difficult situation, MacDonald was well qualified to deal. Composing differences was his occupation; making the lion (whichever is the lion) lie down with the lamb (whichever is the lamb). He made Sir Herbert Samuel lie down a little longer with Mr. Neville Chamberlain by the simple expedient of an agreement to differ; 'Ministers,' it was announced, 'who found themselves unable to support the conclusions arrived at by the majority of their colleagues on the subject of import duties and cognate matters, were to be at liberty to express their views by speech and vote/ Thus Protection, long clamoured for, came to pass without Sir Herbert Samuel having either to signify approval or resign; and the House of Commons was treated to the curious spectacle of one member of the Government Front Bench demolishing another's arguments; directing his attack, not on the Opposition, but on his colleagues.

Though the arrangement was generally pronounced a success, and an interesting innovation, it led to some embarrassment and irritation; and as time passed, and Sir Herbert Samuel's resignation, from being inconvenient, became desirable, he found it increasingly difficult to agree at all with his colleagues, even to agree to differ from them. He was repeatedly urged by the *Manchester Guardian* and other Liberal newspapers to cross the

floor of the House, and at last did so, leading away a minute band of followers and three members of the Government. An act so long deferred, and whose consequences were so insignificant, was bound to seem unimportant. The Opposition gained no noticeable accession of strength, the Government was not appreciably weaker; and after the next General Election, Sir Herbert went, as Viscount Samuel, to the House of Lords, there in a position to obey the dictates of his conscience without equivocation, and steadfastly uphold the principles office trade.